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(S//NC//CIA//UO//OC//NF) SUBJ: NEGATIVE REACTION BY RIGHT WING MILITARY OFFICERS TO THE RECENT ASSIGNMENTS OF COLONEL JULIO AGUSTIN TRUJILLO AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL BENJAMIN RAMOS

Central Intelligence Agency

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COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR
 SUBJ: NEGATIVE REACTION BY RIGHT WING MILITARY OFFICERS TO THE RECENT ASSIGNMENTS OF COLONEL JULIO AGUSTIN TRUJILLO AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL BENJAMIN RAMOS

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TEXT: 1.

MANY RIGHT WING MILITARY OFFICERS
 REACTED NEGATIVELY TO THE RECENT ASSIGNMENTS OF COLONEL JULIO AGUSTIN ((TRUJILLO)) AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL BENJAMIN ((RAMOS)) AND VOICED THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL CARLOS EUGENIO ((VIDES)) CASANOVA. THE RIGHT WING OFFICERS COMPLAINED THAT TRUJILLO, WHO WAS NAMED COMMANDER OF THE FIRST INFANTRY BRIGADE, AND RAMOS, WHO WAS NAMED SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF THE FOURTH BRIGADE, WERE LEFTIST SYMPATHIZERS AND FOLLOWERS OF COLONEL ADOLFO ((MAJANO)). IT WAS SUSPECTED BY THE RIGHT WING OFFICERS THAT TRUJILLO AND RAMOS WERE NAMED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE POSTS BY PRESIDENT JOSE NAPOLEON ((DUARTE)) IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP OFFICERS LOYAL TO DUARTE IN KEY COMMAND POSITIONS. TRUJILLO AND RAMOS WOULD THUS SERVE AS A COUNTERBALANCE TO THE INFLUENCE OF THE RIGHT WING OFFICERS AND

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PROVIDE DUARTE EARLY WARNING OF ANY COUP PLOTTING.

2. [REDACTED] AMONG THE RIGHT WING OFFICERS WHO COMPLAINED ABOUT TRUJILLO AND RAMOS WERE GENERAL JUAN RAFAEL ((BUSTILLO)), GENERAL ADOLFO ((BLANDON)), LIEUTENANT COLONEL SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ, LIEUTENANT COLONEL MAURICIO ((STABEN)) AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOAQUIN ((ZACAPA)). ONE OF THE CONCERNS OF THESE OFFICERS IS THAT TRUJILLO AND RAMOS WILL NOT CARRY OUT THE DUTIES WITH WHICH THEY ARE CHARGED. SINCE TRUJILLO AND RAMOS ARE CONSIDERED LEFTIST SYMPATHIZERS, IT IS SUSPECTED THAT THEY MIGHT DELIBERATELY IMPEDE SALVADORAN MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST INSURGENTS OR AVOID CONFRONTATION ALTOGETHER BY MAINTAINING THEIR TROOPS IN GARRISON. THE RIGHT WING OFFICERS AGREED TO OBSERVE THE COMBAT PERFORMANCE OF TRUJILLO AND RAMOS FOR AN UNSPECIFIED TRIAL PERIOD BEFORE PRESSING FURTHER FOR THEIR REMOVAL.

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